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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 081917

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

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TODEP 5

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CALI, MEDELLIN, USCINCSO FROM BOGOTA APRIL 22:

QUOTE UNCLAS BOGOTA 3376

E O 11652 NA
TAGS PINT CO

SUBJ: ELECTION REPORT; PRELIMINARY TOTALS; TRENDS; VICTORY AND CONCESSION STATEMENTS

USCINCSO FOR J2

1. HERWITH PARTIAL VOTE TOTALS FROM NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY AS OF 6:15 AM APR 22:

LOPEZ (LIBERAL) 2,019,875
GOMEZ (CONSERVATIVE) 1,266,392
MRS MORENO (ANAPO) 381,830
ECHEVERRI (UNO) 96,474
DUARTE (CD) 3,798

3,776,303
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PAGE 02 STATE 081917

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

NATIONAL CIVIL REGISTRY HAS SHUT DOWN ITS VOTE COUNTING OPERATIONS
TO ALLOW PERSONNEL TO SLEEP. COUNTING WILL RESUME AT 2 PM LOCAL
TIME.

2. ACCORDING TO THE FOREGOING STATISTICS, LOPEZ HAS OVER
FIFTY THREE PERCENT OF ALL VOTES CAST. NORMALLY, WE WOULD EXPECT
THAT PERCENTAGE TO FALL AS RETURNS CAME IN FROM THE COUNTRY-
SIDE, WHERE GOMEZ SHOULD BE STRONGER. IN THIS CASE HOWEVER,
THE TOTALS GIVEN ABOVE INCLUDE ONLY 144,000 VOTES FROM BOGOTA,
WHERE AT LEAST 600,000 VOTES WERE CAST, MOST OF THEM FOR LOPEZ.
IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE CAN SAY THAT CURRENT TRENDS FAVOR A
RETENTION BY THE LIBERALS OF THEIR ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

3. PRES-ELECT ALFONSO LOPEZ MICHELSEN ISSUED A VICTORY STATEMENT
SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT IN WHICH HE PRAISED THE LIBERAL PARTY
AND GAVE CREDIT TO HIS SUPPORTERS FOR HIS VICTORY. "MY CANDIDACY
WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT," HE SAID. HE ALSO COMMENDED PRES PASTRANA
FOR HIS IMPARTIALITY IN SPITE OF SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE TO SUPPORT
GOMEZ. HE PROMISED TO GIVE PARITY IN THE GOVERNMENT TO THE
CONSERVATIVE PARTY IN SPITE OF "THE FACT THAT THE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY TEMPORARILY ABANDONED ITS TRADITONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PROGRAMS BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF THE CHURCH, FOR A PHILOSOPHY
(GOMEZ' DESARROLLISMO) DRAMATICALLY REJECTED" BY THE VOTERS.
HE PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LEADERSHIP IN THE CONSERVATIVE
PARTY OF EX-PRES MARIANO OSPINA. LOPEZ RECOGNIZED THE HIGH LEVEL
OF THE DEBATE CARRIED OUT BY HIS TWO PRINCIPAL RIVALS, GOMEZ
AND ANAPO CANDIDATE MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO. HE SAID THAT
THE LOW VOTE FOR MARIA EUGENIA WAS PREDICTABLE THROUGH A CAREFUL
READING OF THE INFO AVAILABLE, BUT THAT THE FOREIGN PRESS HAD
GIVEN HER CAMPAIGN MORE ATTENTION THAC MERITED BECAUE OF THE
POTENTIAL NEWSWORTHINESS THAT HER VICTORY WOULD HAVE BEEN.
FINALLY, HE SAID THAT HE ACCEPTED THE CLEAR MANDATE GIVEN HIM
BY THE COLOMBIAN ELECTORATE, AND PROMISED TO FULFILL TO THE BEST
OF HIS ABILITY HIS OBLIGATION TO THE NATION.

4. GOMEZ CONCEDED AT MIDNIGHT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD ALREADY CALLED
LOPEZ TO CONCEDE THE ELECTION AND TO CONGRATULATE HIM FOR HIS
SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN. GOMEZ SAID THAT HE DECIDED TO DO THIS ON
THE BASIS OF PARTIAL RETURNS IN ORDER TO CONTRIBUTE TO PUBLIC
PEACE, THE CONSOLIDATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND TO END
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THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THIS MANNER AS A PUBLIC TRIBUTE TO
THE CIVILITY WITH WHICH THE COLOMBIAN POPULACE HAD ACTED THROUGHOUT.

5. MARIA EUGENIA ROJAS DE MORENO TOLD REPORTERS EARLY APRIL 22
SHE WOULD MAKE NO STATEMENT UNTIL LATER IN THE DAY, BUT THAT SHE
WAS SATISFIED WITH HER VOTE. SHE ADDED THAT THE TWO TRADITIONAL
PARTIES HAD SPENT MILLIONS OF PESOS DURING THE CAMPAIGN WHILE
ANAPO HAD VERY LITTLE MONEY.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

6. COLOMBIANS OF ALL PARTIES ARE JUSTIFIABLY PROUD OF THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY CARRIED OFF THE CAMPAIGN AND THE ELECTIONS. MILLIONS OF COLOMBIANS POURED INTO THE STREETS ON SUNDAY TO VOTE AND TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN TO PARTISAN POLITICS. SPIRITS WERE HIGH AND COMPETITION FOR VOTES BETWEEN THE PARTIES WAS INTENSE, BUT IT ALL CAME OFF WITH RARE GOOD HUMOR; NOT ONE SINGLE SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE NATION ON ELECTION DAY. VAKY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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